(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) All officers in the Ministries/ Departments of Government of India are expected to observe the guidelines laid down in para 57 and 60 of the Manual of Office Procedure. Any violation of the procedure is dealt with as per the disciplinary procedures.

(b) to (d). Yes. The Government have issued instructions calling for replies to be given promptly to letters received from Members of Parliament and have asked the Ministries/Departments to see that the instructions are observed scrupulously. They have also been asked to devise a monitoring system to ensure that the replies to the Members of Parliament are sent expenditiously as laid down in para 122 of Manual of Office Procedure.

Kerosene Distribution

1623. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the distribution system of kerosene to various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken and likely to be taken to check the blackmarketing of kerosene?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c). The Government periodically revises the distribution system of kerosene. Apart from allowing growth in the allocation of kerosene to various States, the Central Government has also requested the State Governments to rationalise the system of retail distribution to identify points of diversion and to take steps to plug the loopholes to prevent black-marketing of kerosene, so that it reaches the targeted groups in time and in desired quantities and at prescribed prices.

(d) In order to check black-marketing of kerosene, steps such as furfural doping of kerosene, blue dyeing of kerosene, sample testing by Mobile Laboratories and surprise inspections by field officers of Oil Companies and State authorities are undertaken.

LPG Agencies

1624. SHRI PITAMBAR PASWAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of LPG agencies working in the State of Bihar and the number of proposals for setting up of these agencies in the State pending for clearance;

(b) the names of the places in the State where new LPG agencies are proposed to be set up; and

(c) the time by which the pending agencies are to be given clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c). As on 1.4.1996, 195 LPG distributorships were functioning in Bihar. In order to meet the growing demand, additional 95 LPG distributorships have been included in the LPG Marketing Plan 1994-96 for Bihar. Selection of distributors is made through Oil Selection Board. It generally takes 1-2 years for commissioning of distributorships from the date of advertisement.

Roads in Uttar Pradesh

1625. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT BACHDA :
SHRI RAM SAGAR :
SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA :
SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government propose to provide additional assistance for the construction and metallization of roads in the hill districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to connect all the villages by roads in the country during the Eighth Plan;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether availability of transportation is first step towards development; and

(h) whether rural unemployment will also be effected by it and the migration of labourers will also be checked?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). This Ministry does not propose to provide additional assistance for the construction of roads in the hill districts of Uttar Pradesh.

(d) to (f). The Eight Plan (1992-97) envisages linking of all villages with population 1000 and above (on the basis of 1981 census) with all weather roads.

(g) and (h). Rural roads play a significant role in opening up rural areas, accelerating socio-economic development and achieving the objective of Integrated Rural Development.